

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated December 29, 2004. Claims 1-42 were pending. By this Amendment, claim 39 has been amended to remove a typographical error, and new claim 43 has been added. Therefore, claims 1-43 are now pending, with claims 1-4, 17-20 and 39-42 being in independent form.

Claim 39 was objected to as purportedly having informalities.

By this Amendment, claim 39 has been amended to delete the word "memorized".

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 39 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,239,881 to Shaffer et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,072,599 to Oba et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1-4, 17-20 and 39-42 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to improvements to a communication terminal device which enable the communication terminal device to process efficiently (that is, without unnecessarily wasting resources) unwanted communications (for example, direct mail, junk mail, etc.) which are received. For example, receipt of unwanted facsimiles can be a burden of operating a facsimile machine. Unwanted facsimiles, if allowed to be automatically printed out when received, causes waste of paper, and requires filtering through received facsimiles to separate the unwanted facsimiles from the other received facsimiles.

The claimed invention provides a communication terminal device with a function of rejecting receipt of messages from communication partners who are not registered in a receipt-allowed communication partner registration table. The communication terminal device, instead of receiving and printing out unwanted messages or even individual reports corresponding to the

respective rejected messages, rejects the unwanted message from the communication partner not registered in the receipt-allowed communication partner registration table, and collects and stores communication control information in connection with unwanted messages which arrive from communication partners not registered in the receipt-allowed communication partner registration table. At a later time, a list can be created on the basis of the stored communication control information for the unwanted messages, and visibly output. Thus, waste of paper (for example, from printing of wanted facsimile messages and/or from printing of receipt rejection reports for respective rejected facsimile messages) can be minimized.

The cited art does not disclose a communication terminal device which (1) rejects messages from a communication partner not registered in a receipt-allowed communication partner registration table, and (2) includes a receipt rejecting communication control medium, as provided by the claimed invention described in claim 1.

Shaffer, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a system for facsimile transmission and reception. In the system of Shaffer, a station identifier received by a facsimile device from another facsimile machine is checked against a list (stored by the facsimile device) of acceptable facsimile station identifiers. If a match is found, reception of the facsimile from the other facsimile machine is allowed to proceed. However, if no match is found, unlike the claimed invention wherein a message from a communication partner not registered in a receipt-allowed communication partner registration table is rejected, the facsimile device of Shaffer stores the facsimile in memory (step 412 in Shaffer), and the user can view a portion of the stored facsimile to decide whether to print or display the entire facsimile (step 414 in Shaffer).

Oba, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a facsimile apparatus which is adapted to redirect facsimile data received from a facsimile machine to a personal computer. The facsimile apparatus has the conventional facsimile feature of storing information indicating a result of a

transmission, and periodically printing a communication management report containing the transmission result information.

Oba, like Shaffer, does not disclose or suggest a communication terminal device which (1) rejects messages from a communication partner not registered in a receipt-allowed communication partner registration table, and (2) includes a receipt rejecting communication control medium, as provided by the claimed invention described in claim 1.

Since Shaffer and Oba, even when taken in combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention, the cited art does not render the claimed invention unpatentable.

Independent claims 2-4, 17-20 and 39-42 are allowable over the cited art for at least similar reasons.

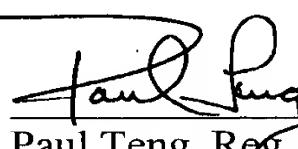
Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including any additional claim fees, that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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